

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 12, 15 and 35 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An investment machine for public use and display, the investment machine comprising:

- a. a housing;
- b. a display at least partially enclosed by the housing and viewable by an investor adjacent to the housing;
- c. an investor identifier at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive a unique identifier from the investor;
- d. a money receiver at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive and [identify] count money in the form of at least one of a bill and a coin to be invested; and
- e. a processor at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive input from the investor representative of the investor's current preferences for investing the money, and to transmit a signal representative of the input for use in investing at least a portion of the money in association with the unique identifier received from the investor.

Claim 2. (Original) The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising an investment selector interface configured to receive an investment preference from the investor and transmit the investment preference to the processor.

Claim 3. (Original) The investment machine of claim 2, wherein the investment selection interface includes at least one of a touch screen display, a touch sensitive surface, and a button.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The investment machine of claim 2, wherein the investment selector is configured to receive the investment preference from the investor at substantially the same time as the money receiver receives and [identifies] counts the money to be invested.

Claim 5. (Original) The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising a network communication connection coupled to the processor, the network communication connection configured to couple the processor of the investment machine to a central processor configured to store and coordinate investments made at each of a plurality of investment machines.

Claim 6. (Original) The investment machine of claim 5, wherein the network communication connection is further configured to couple the processor of the investment machine to the central processor at substantially the same time as the investor identifier receives the unique identifier from the investor.

Claim 7. (Original) The investment machine of claim 1, wherein the display is configured to display at least one of investment information, advertising information, and account information.

Claim 8. (Original) The investment machine of claim 7, wherein the advertising information is selected on the basis of one or more of an investor's investment activities, an investor's personal information, a location at which the investment machine is located and an identity of a sponsor of the investment machine.

Claim 9. (Original) The investment machine of claim 7, wherein the advertising information is one or more of an informational presentation, a tutorial, a news story, and other information relating to a particular company or its product in which an investor may desire to invest.

Claim 10. (Original) The investment machine of claim 1, wherein the money receiver is configured to receive one or more of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card and an alphanumeric code.

Claim 11. (Original) The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising an investment report disburser associated with the processor and configured to disburse a report associated with the investor's unique identifier.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A method of investing money, the method comprising:

associating a unique identifier with at least one person;

receiving money in the form of at least one of a bill and a coin directly at an investment machine from the at least one person;

receiving current investment preferences through the investment machine from the at least one person; and

investing at least a portion of the money on behalf of the at least one person in accordance with the current investment preferences.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving money at an investment machine comprises receiving at least one of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card and an alphanumeric code.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein receiving current investment preferences through the investment machine comprises receiving at least one of an indication from the investor that an investment option provided by the processor is preferred, an investment option preselected by the investor is preferred, and an investment option provided by the investor at the time of the indication is preferred.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A method of investing money using an investment machine, the method comprising:

inputting a unique identifier into an investment machine;

placing money in the form of at least one of a bill and a coin to be invested directly into the investment machine; and

selecting a current investment preference option at the investment machine.

Claim 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising receiving an investment report from the investment machine.

Claim 17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the money to be invested is in the form of at least one of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card and an alphanumeric code.

Claims 18-31. (Canceled).

Claim 32. (Original) A method of investing money using an investment machine, the method comprising:

inputting a unique identifier into an investment machine;

placing at least one of a coin and a bill to be invested into the investment machine; and

selecting a current investment preference option at the investment machine.

Claim 33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising receiving an investment report from the investment machine.

Claim 34. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein selecting a current investment preference option at the investment machine comprises providing at least one of an indication that an investment option provided by the processor is preferred and an indication that a preselected investment option is preferred.

Claim 35. (Currently amended) An investment machine for public use and display, the investment machine comprising:

a housing;

a display at least partially enclosed by the housing and viewable by an investor adjacent to the housing;

an investor identifier at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive a unique identifier from the investor;

at least one of a coin receiver and a bill receiver at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive and [identify] count money to be invested; and

a processor at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive input from the investor indicative of the investor's current investment preferences and to transmit a signal representative of the input for use in investing at least a portion of the money in association with the unique identifier received from the investor.

Claim 36. (Original) The investment machine of claim 35, further comprising an investment selector interface configured to receive an investment preference from the investor and transmit the investment preference to the processor.

Claim 37. (Original) The investment machine of claim 36, wherein the investment selection interface includes at least one of a touch screen display, a touch sensitive surface, and a button.

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The investment machine of claim 36, wherein the investment selector is configured to receive the investment preference from the investor at substantially the same time as the money receiver receives and [identifies] counts the money to be invested.

Claim 39. (Original) The investment machine of claim 35, further comprising a network communication connection coupled to the processor, the network communication connection configured to couple the processor of the investment machine to a central processor configured to store and coordinate investments made at each of a plurality of investment machines.

Claim 40. (Original) The investment machine of claim 39, wherein the network communication connection is further configured to couple the processor of the investment machine to the central processor at substantially the same time as the investor identifier receives the unique identifier from the investor.

Claim 41. (Original) The investment machine of claim 35, wherein the display is configured to display at least one of investment information, advertising information, and account information.

Claim 42. (Original) The investment machine of claim 41, wherein the advertising information is selected on the basis of one or more of an investor's investment activities, an investor's personal information, a location at which the investment machine is located and an identity of a sponsor of the investment machine.

Claim 43. (Original) The investment machine of claim 41, wherein the advertising information is one or more of an informational presentation, a tutorial, a news story, and other information relating to a particular company or its product in which an investor may desire to invest.

Claim 44. (Original) The investment machine of claim 35, further comprising an investment report disburser associated with the processor and configured to disburse a report associated with the investor's unique identifier.